**Washington, DC** – Congressman Bruce Braley (D-lowa) attended a National Guard send-off ceremony in Davenport and Clinton. Members of the Iowa National Guard will depart for overseas deployment throughout the first part of August. This is the largest deployment of Iowa troops since World War II, affecting 2,800 soldiers and more than 30 Iowa communities.

"As these brave men and women answer their call to duty, thoughts and prayers of lowans will travel with them," Braley said. "My father fought in WWII at the Battle of Iwo Jima and I have the utmost respect for veterans of all ages. We are grateful for your sacrifice and bravery. Please know that my office can be a resource to you and your loved ones before, during and after your deployment."

Braley has long been a leading advocate for Iowa's National Guardsmen and women. Earlier this year, Braley fought the Pentagon to secure benefits known as "Respite Leave" for extended deployments overseas. Members of Iowa's National Guard had been part of the longest deployment overseas since World War II.

Visit Braley's website to find resources for soldiers, family members and loved ones at <a href="http://Br">http://Br</a> aley.house.gov